

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05

IGA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /086 W

-----111346 301331Z /46

R 300858Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5005

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

DIA WASDC

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

1. SUMMARY: ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR WAKU CALLED UPON ME AUGUST 29, OBVIOUSLY ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FRM HIS GOVERNMENT. HE QUESTIONED U.S. INTENTIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, AND BROACHED IDEA OF NEW NEGOTIATING FORUM FOR CHADIAN/LIBYAN DISPUTE.

2. AMBASSADOR WAKU STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU REGARDING THE SITUATION IN CHAD, AND THAT ZAIRE WAS CONFUSED AS TO JUST WHAT ROLE THE U.S. PLANNED TO PLAY IN CHAD. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER WE INTENDED TO GIVE CHAD MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS WE HAD EARLIER INDICATED AND, IF SO, WHETHER THIS WOULD

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BE DONE THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. I RESPONDED THAT WE WERE COMMITTED TO HELPING CHAD BUT FOUND THAT THE LEGAL PROCEDURES FOR DOING SO WERE LENGTHY AND CUMBERSOME. I ADDED THAT WHILE SUCH DELAYS WERE AT TIMES ANNOYING, THEY WERE A PART OF OUR SYSTEM AND WERE FAR SUPERIOR TO ARBITRARY EXECUTIVE ACTION. I POINTED OUT WE COULD NOT APPROVE

TRANSFER OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES UNTIL A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION HAD BEEN MADE AND PUT BEFORE CONGRESS. WHEN SUCH PROCEDURE WAS COMPLETED, TXAE TRANSFER FROM THIRD COUNTRIES OR THE PURCHASE BY THIRD COUNTRIES ON CHC'S BEHALF WOULD BE THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS WAYS OF ASSISTING CHAD.

3. AMBASSADOR WAKU THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DOUBTED IF ANY OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS OF THE LIBYAN/CHADIAN DISPUTE WOULD BEAR FRUIT AND IT THOUGHT AN ENTIRELEY NEW APPROACH WAS CALLED FOR. HE ADDED THAT A MILITARY SOLUTION IN CHAD'S FAVOR WAS ALSO IMPROBABLE AND THAT WHILE CHAD, IF GIVEN SUPPORT, MIGHT WELL RETAKE VARIOUS TOWNS IN HE NORTH, THIS WOULD NOT RESOLVE THE OVERALL SITUATION AS LONG AS LIBYA ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE REBELS. IN SPEAKING OF A NEW DIPLOMATIC APPROACH/ HE SUGGESTED A NEGOTIATING EFFORT HEADED BY AN ARAB CHIEF OF STATE TO WHOM QADHAFI MIGHT LISTEN, AND MENTIONED BOUMEDIENE AS A POSSIBILITY. HE ASKED ME TO REFLECT UPON THE SUGGESTION OF A NEW DIPLOMATIC APPROACH AND TO GET BACK TO HIM ON THE SUBJECT AT A LATER DATE. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IF SIMILAR APPROACHES WERE BEING MADE ELSEWHERE.

4. COMMENT: ZAIRIAN CONFUSION OVER OUR INTENTIONS IS COMMON REACTION TO THE SLOWNESS OF OUR LEGAL PROCEDURES. AFRICANS CANNOT BELIEVE THAT IF U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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EXECUTIVE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING, IT CANNOT MERELY DO IT. IDEA OF ANY SORT OF SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATING FORUM IS APPEALING, BUT IS BUILT ON PREMISE THAT QADHAFI WANTS TO NEGOTIATE. FROM HERE, TLHIS LOOKS DOUBTFUL. BRADFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NDJAME02978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770313-0292
Format: TEL
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977088/aaaaagqm.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e466635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1657720
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD
TAGS: MASS, US, CD, LY, CG
To: STATE ALGIERS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e466635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009